

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)
Teleconference
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ross Wileman, Chairman
Rob Wedin, Handler
Mark Wollam, Grower (partial)
Bob Bednar, Grower
Ohannes Karaoghlanian, Alternate Grower

CDFA REPRESENTATIVES

Donella Boreham
Nate Dechoretz
Rick Jensen
Donna Weathers

MEMBERS ABSENT

Reuben Hofshi, Handler
Phil Gilligan, Grower
Chris Varvel, Alternate Handler

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Mr. Ross Wileman called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. with a quorum present.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL September 17, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Rob Wedin moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Bob Bednar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A copy of the September 17, 2008 Meeting Minutes are attached as EXHIBIT A.

ITEM 3: RECOMMENDATION AND NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO SEND TO THE CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION BOARD.

Mr. Ross Wileman informed the committee his term expires May 27, 2009 and having served four consecutive terms is not eligible for another term. Mr. Rob Wedin (Handler), Mr. Phil Gilligan (Grower), and Mr. Chris Varvel (Alternate Handler) have terms expiring on May 27, 2009 and are eligible to serve another term.

Mr. Chris Varvel, alternate handler, was nominated to fill the vacant handler member position.

MOTION: Mr. Rob Wedin moved to approve Chris Varvel as Handler member. Mr. Bob Bednar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wileman stated that an alternate handler member position is now vacant. Mr. Wileman introduced Mr. Ralph Gonzalez, Field Manager for Mission Produce and recommended him for the Alternate Handler position.

MOTION: Mr. Ross Wileman moved to approve Mr. Ralph Gonzalez as the alternate handler member. Mr. Rob Wedin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The following were nominated for the two-year term 2009-2011 and to recommend the nominations to the California Avocado Commission (CAC) Board:

Rob Wedin, Handler
Chris Varvel, Handler
Phil Gilligan, Grower
Ralph Gonzalez, Alternate Handler

MOTION: Mr. Bob Bednar moved to approve the nominations for the two-year terms commencing on May 27, 2009 and to recommend nominations to the California Avocado Commission (CAC) Board and the CDFA Secretary. Mr. Rob Wedin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: AVOCADO INSPECTION UPDATE

Review: Food and Ag Code 45031. Every person who is in possession of over 40 pounds of avocados that are produced in this state shall possess a record of proof of ownership of avocados.

The California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) plans to introduce legislation to reduce the 200 pound threshold in state law before they can enforce proof of ownership provisions to 25 pounds. They have asked if the Commission is interested in reducing the 40-pound threshold to 25 pounds.

Mr. Rick Jensen explained the background for the legislation proposal. It appears that there are an increasing number of roadside vendors selling product. The vendors are aware of the law, which requires them to have proof of ownership for more than 200 pounds of product. This bill will guard against theft of growers. The Ag Commissioners are recommending the proposal to require proof of ownership for purchases of 25 pounds. They are also inquiring if the Avocado industry would like to amend the 40-pound threshold, which is more restrictive than the 200 pounds but will be broader than the 25 pounds proposed. The recommendation would repeal Section 45031 from a 40-pound threshold to a 25-pound threshold.

After discussion the committee was in support of the CACASA proposal to reduce the threshold to 25 pounds.

MOTION: Mr. Bob Bednar moved to amend the current 40-pound to 25 to conform to proposed state legislation. Mr. Rob Wedin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lamb Hass Spot Check Research:

Ms. Donella Boreham updated the committee on progress of the research project. Project will start the week of April 6, 2009. Objective is to compare Lamb Hass dry matter percentage to maturity release dates. We will have eight growers participating and will select five fruit per size and test every two weeks. Fruit will be picked from trees at least five years old and picked from the same side of tree. (North, South, etc.)

ITEM 4: PROPOSED CDFA BUDGET 2009/10

Ms. Donella Boreham presented members with the proposed CDFA budget of \$169,976 for fiscal year (FY) 2009/10 beginning on July 1, 2009. This portion of the Avocado Inspection Program budget covers overhead at CDFA and remains on the CDFA fiscal year basis of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

MOTION: Mr. Rob Wedin moved to approve the FY 2009/10 CDFA portion of the Avocado Inspection Program budget in the amount of \$169,976. Mr. Ohannes Karaoghlanian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A copy of the CDFA Budget is attached as EXHIBIT B.

ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Bob Bednar moved to adjourn. Mr. Ohannes Karaoghlanian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ross Wileman adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donella Boreham, Program Supervisor
Avocado Inspection Program
Inspection and Compliance
Inspection Services

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)**

**Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2008
Irvine, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ross Wileman, Chairman
Rob Wedin
Reuben Hofshi
Bob Bednar
Mark Wollam
Phil Gilligan
Ohannes Karaoghlanian (Alternate Grower)
Chris Varvel (Alternate Handler) Partial

CDFA REPRESENTATIVES

Donella Boreham
Rick Jensen

INTERESTED PARTIES

Mike Sanders
Charles Froehlich

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Chairman Ross Wileman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL JUNE 18, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Reuben Hofshi moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Rob Wedin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A copy of the June 18, 2008 Meeting Minutes are attached as EXHIBIT A.

ITEM 3: LAMB HASS DRY MATTER/RELEASE DATES

The members discussed concerns that sending early season Lamb Hass into the market where there is high quality Hass has the potential to disappoint customers. After the discussion, the committee decided to have the Avocado Inspection Program (AIP) test Lamb Hass one month before (starting in April 2009) release dates and two weeks after each size release date and report data back to committee.

ITEM 4: SIZE 96

Mr. Ohannes Karaoghlanian discussed the possibility of creating a size 120 and questioned if the size will benefit growers. Mr. Ross Wileman said he would discuss sizing and size 48/50 with the California Avocado Commission, Marketing Committee and report back to Avocado Inspection Committee (AIC).

ITEM 5: PROPOSED AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM BUDGET 2007/2008 AND PROPOSED FEE INCREASE

Ms. Donella Boreham presented members with a proposed fee increase from the current crop year (2007/08) of 16 cents per hundredweight to 25 cents per hundredweight for the

crop year 2008/09. This is based on an estimated 215 million pound crop year. Including the proposed fee increase (.25 cents per hundredweight) in 2008/09, the ending fund balance on October 31, 2009 is estimated at \$130,739.

Ms. Boreham presented members with the proposed budget of \$567,685 for the Avocado Inspection Program 2008/09 crop year beginning November 1, 2008. The proposed budget is based on a fee of 25 cents per hundredweight. The total budget for the year (including the CDFA Budget of \$176,576 approved March 12, 2008) will be \$744,261.

MOTION: Mr. Bob Bednar moved to approve the 2008/09 Avocado Inspection Program (AIP) budget of \$567,685 based on a crop of 215 million pounds and approve the certification fee increase to 25 cents per hundredweight for crop year 2008/09. Mr. Mark Wollam seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Copies of the Proposed 2008/09 Budget and the 2008/09 Projected Operations are attached as EXHIBIT B and EXHIBIT C, respectively.

ITEM 6: NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Boreham reported the testing results from Mexico and Chile. Spot checks will continue to be conducted at cold storage facilities, terminal markets, packinghouses, distributors, and brokers.

ITEM 7: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in March 2009.

ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wileman adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donella Boreham, Program Supervisor
Avocado Inspection Program
Inspection and Compliance
Inspection Services

CDFA BUDGET (AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM 2009/2010)

Exhibit B

	FY 2008-09 Budget	FY 2008-09 Projected	FY 2009-10 Proposed	
PERM. SALARIES	68,376	68,376	68,376	
TEMP HELP	5,000	-	-	
OVERTIME				
DIVISION SALARY & WAGES	27,500	27,404	27,500	
STAFF BENEFITS	25,000	24,190	25,000	
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	125,876	119,970	120,876	
GENERAL EXPENSE	500	500	500	Same as 2008-09 Budget
COMMUNICATIONS	5,500	5,000	5,500	Same as 2008-09 Budget
POSTAGE	400	200	400	Same as 2008-09 Budget
TRAVEL- IN STATE	14,000	13,000	14,000	Same as 2008-09 Budget
TRAINING	400	400	400	Same as 2008-09 Budget
FACILTIES	2,200	1,856	2,200	Same as 2008-09 Budget
UTILITIES	3,500	3,000	3,500	Same as 2008-09 Budget
INDIRECT- DIVISION	6,200	9,100	9,100	
INDIRECT- EXEC/ADMIN	17,500	12,500	12,500	
DIRECT- OTHER	500	1,000	1,000	
TOTAL OE & E	50,700	46,556	49,100	
TOTAL EXPENSES	176,576	166,526	169,976	
Avocado Inspection Program Budget(AIP) approved 9.17.2008			<u>567,685</u>	
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES			<u>737,661</u>	

02.24.09